

# INTERSECTION



Borneo Mansion by Design Network Architects Sdn Bhd  
Photo credit: Kelvin Chan Photography

1/2019-2020  
PPK469/01/2017(034673)

**PAM SARAWAK CHAPTER AUGUST 2019**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



A warm hello to our fellow architects in this issue of INTERSECTION.

Firstly, I would like to greatly thank all of our members who have taken time out from their busy schedule to join us during our recent Gawai-Raya cum Members Nite. This is one of the few occasions when we can meet up with our fellow architects and industry partners, to catch up in a more casual and festive environment.

On behalf of PAMSC, we warmly welcome to our architectural family our recently minted ARs - namely Florence, Tat Yeung, Michael, Sharina and Samuel. Congratulations! We look forward to your participations in PAMSC.

President Ar. Lillian Tay was in town recently. We would like to thank her for hosting an impromptu and memorable evening to meet up with our fellow members. It was also very heartening to see that many of our Past Chairmen and young members attended the function; sharing their concerns and suggestions to the President on various issues affecting our architectural practice. Thank You Madam President.

A loud congratulations to Design Network Architects for their achievements at the recent PAM Awards 2019 and Arkitek KDI Sdn Bhd for being awarded the BCI Asia Top 10 Architects Award 2019 in Malaysia. I encourage more Sarawakian firms to participate in these awards. For those who have recently submitted for awards, regardless of the outcomes, you have made us proud. We hope that this will spur you on to try again in the years to come. We have indeed much talent in Sarawak that should be showcased.

Our Inter-Professional Games is coming up. I would like to thank Ar. Sam Lau and his team, as well as our games captains for coordinating this event on behalf of PAMSC with our fellow professionals at UPC. Please support PAMSC by signing up to participate in the games. Here's wishing our teams all the best of luck!!

I would very much like to thank team INTERSECTION for yet another splendid newsletter.

Last but not least, I am very pleased that INTERSECTION is introducing our PAMSC main committee members for 2019-2020 terms in this issue.

There are a few new faces in our main committee this term. It is with great hope that our young team will help PAMSC to grow and evolve; to maintain its relevancy in our ever-changing architectural landscape. Many hands make work light as the saying goes and it is in that spirit that PAMSC thrives. There are so many of who have served PAMSC in one capacity or another; currently and over the years, who are in the main committee. On behalf of PAMSC, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all very much.

PAMSC is our platform to champion our collective Sarawakian architectural interests – whether it is design, education, practice or any other areas that will benefit not only our architects, but our local community and industry at large. Our collective voices and tireless efforts by our members is a potent force that makes the difference.

I hope more of you will join and support us in the years to come to ensure that PAMSC remains that force.

Thank you.

**Ar. Ivy Jong**

PAMSC Chairman 2019 - 2020

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

Greetings and welcome to this new edition of INTERSECTION !

Contrary to popular belief, there isn't a singular *Theme* to every issue of INTERSECTION. Instead, we try to put together articles that are relevant not only to PAMSC members, but to those in the community that are in some way related to the architecture and building landscapes in Sarawak. Apart from recent happenings, we aim to cover a wide range of topics that we hope readers will find interesting - interesting enough to spark conversations and dialogues that will fuel, engage and reconnect with one another in our close-knit community.

Discourse was something that popped back into my mind while I was editing two articles in this issue. The first, **The Bamboo Pavilion** by Wendy Teo, founder of Wendy Teo Atelier and Borneo Laboratory was a major highlight of the recent Rainforest Fringe Festival held in July 2019. The Pavilion can be seen as an amalgamation of the recent works by Borneo Laboratory - aimed at bringing people together from diverse backgrounds to create a unique design language. Ar. Wee Hii Min brought up valid points in **CPD - Continuing Personal Development** regarding the choice of design conferences in Malaysia; highlighting differences in their approaches, aims and results. Coming off the bat from a successful PDF: PAMSC Design Festival 2019, Min will no doubt have plenty to chew on for the next Design Forum in 2020. Both articles relay a need for regular discourses not only from an architectural perspective - a wide, varied background to draw upon has been proven useful to form the rich and diverse architectural landscape we have in our own backyard.

In an effort to introduce our **PAMSC Main Committee 2019-2020** to our members, we thought it'd be fun to include their life anecdotes and interests in this issue. Our committee members are a fun, hard-working crew who willingly dedicate time from their busy schedules for the interests and future of the local architectural community. We welcome anyone who wishes to contribute to PAMSC on any level as well as join the main committee.

We report on the tireless efforts of the sub-committees; **Practice & Government Liaison, Education, Graduates & BIM and Events & CPD**. There has been great initiatives especially in the Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC) and Review of the Sarawak Building Ordinance (SBO) - I hope that readers will take an interest in these efforts to improve our statutory and authorities processes.

It is also a time for Congratulations; we are proud of our home-grown architectural talents who have recently won major accolades in the Malaysian architecture and building industries - **Design Network Architects** and **Arkitek KDI**. They are worth a mention here to encourage more Sarawak-based firms to participate in awards. PAMSC will always support you.

A regular feature in INTERSECTION this year will be the **Archi-Travels** series. **Experiencing Architecture** written by the eloquent Ar. Alan Kor Loong Lau is a reminder that we should not forget the importance and emotion felt when physically experiencing an architectural space. Our **Postcards from the Edge** segment is back this time with a contribution from **Law Eng Ann**, an architect based in Melbourne, Australia who grew up in Kuching.

We welcome any feedback, letters and comments for INTERSECTION. We hope that more members contribute to INTERSECTION - please contact us at [tina.lau@i-designconsultant.com](mailto:tina.lau@i-designconsultant.com) for further information.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the entire INTERSECTION team for their invaluable and tireless efforts.

Ar. Tina Lau Kor Ting



THE BAMBOO PAVILION - PG 8



GAWAI & RAYA MEMBERS NIGHT - PG 10



POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE - PG 20

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Gisele Amber Ling  
D.O.B: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018  
Parents: Jasper Ling Thien  
Jin & Angela Toh Xiao Ling



Muhammad Eidris  
D.O.B: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018  
Parents: Liyana Abdul  
Karim & Ezhar Safawi



Wong Ju Ni  
D.O.B: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Parents: Lee Kao Choo  
(KC) & Wong Chun How



Charlotte Tong  
D.O.B: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019  
Parents: Ar. Brendan Tong  
Jia Chian & Dr. Cheng Ing



Theodore Lim Kai En  
D.O.B: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Parents: Melvin & Melissa Lim

# INTRODUCING....PAMSC MAIN COMMITTEE 2019 - 2020



“Many hands make light work.”

**Ar. Ivy Jong**

*PAMSC Chairman 2019-2020*

**Standing (Left-Right) :** Ar. Ng Chee Wee, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. Leong Pik Shia, Ar. Angel Wong, Emmeline Ong, Ar. Tina Lau, Ar. Felix Wee, Ar. Stephen Liew

**Seated (Left-Right) :** Ar. Tay Buang Chuan, Ar. Hajah Noraini Narodden, Ar. Bong Joon Hin, Ar. Ivy Jong, Ar. Chai Si Yong, Ar. Andy Ngu

**Missing :** Ar. Desmond Kuek, Ar. Wee Hii Min



“ Give me Coffee to change the things I can and Gin to accept those that I cannot. ”

**Ar. Ivy Jong**  
*Chairman*



“ Used to be busy getting members to attend our events, but now busy attending other people's meetings & events.”

**Ar. Chai Si Yong**  
*Deputy Chairman,  
Sub-Committee Chair for  
Practice & Government Liaison*



“ I enjoy hiking, being surrounded by nature and am inspired to save the earth by carrying reusable utensils & a cup in my bag. ”

**Ar. Hajah Noraini Narodden**  
*Vice Chairman,  
Sub-Committee Chair for  
Education, Graduates & BIM*



“ Say Cheese! When all the bosses are around you !!! ”

**Ar. Tay Buang Chuan**  
*Honorary Secretary,  
Sub-Committee Chair for  
Secretariat & IT and CSR*



“ If you want to do well, be Kapten of your life.”

**Ar. Andy Ngu**  
*Honorary Treasurer, Sub-Committee  
Chair for Treasury, Co-Chair for  
Practice & Government Liaison*



“ Anger shows your hidden inner self. Smiling expresses the feelings of the moment. ”

**Ar. Bong Joon Hin**  
*Immediate Past Chairman*



“ I will go anywhere if there's great food. If there are great buildings – that's a double bonus. ”

**Ar. Ng Chee Wee**  
*Co-opt Member Past Chairman,  
Sub-Committee for Practice &  
Government Liaison*



“ Easy-going and enjoys travelling around new places with good local food especially ! ”

**Ar. Desmond Kuek**  
*Co-opt Member Past Chairman*



“ In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.”  
Need to be mindful not to let the blind lead the blind.

**Ar. Peter Wong**  
Co-opt Member Past Chairman



“ Let’s EAT together! ”  
- Exotic Architecture Tours

**Ar. Stephen Liew**  
Co-opt Member Past Chairman



“ Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world. ”  
- Gustav Flaubert  
“ and realize how tiny you and your problems are... ”

**Ar. Leong Pik Shia**  
Committee Member, Sub-Committee Chair for Events & CPD, Co-Chair for Treasury



“ Look up and smile once in a while. ”

**Ar. Tina Lau**  
Committee Member, Sub-Committee Chair for Media & Publications



“ Hi, my name is Wee Hii Min. My grandmother says that I have a sunny disposition, but Jesus doesn’t want me for a sun beam. ”

**Ar. Wee Hii Min**  
Committee Member, Sub-Committee Chair for Design Forum 2020



“ Passion for running, embracing the outdoors and spaces. ”

**Ar. Felix Wee**  
Committee Member, Sub-Committee Co-Chair for Education, Graduates & BIM and CSR



“ Where there is a Will there is a Way. To my mind no problem is too big or too difficult to tackle provided there is a Will to do so. It’s just a matter of time. ”

**Ar. Angel Wong Ming Ming**  
Committee Member, Sub-Committee Co-Chair for Secretariat & IT and Events & CPD



“ Work. Travel. Repeat.  
Always on the hunt for good food and drinks. ”

**Ar. Amanda Lau**  
Committee Member, Sub-Committee Co-Chair for Practice & Government Liaison



“ I’m always up to try new things, like pottery which I’ve started recently. I won’t say no to coffee or hotpot either. ”

**Emmeline Ong**  
Co-opt Member Graduates, Sub-Committee Co-Chair for Design Forum 2020



# CPD - CONTINUING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

These days, we are spoilt for choices when it comes to Design Conferences. In June, there was **SHIFT 2019** organized by **DOMA Initiatives** in Kuala Lumpur, followed by PAM's **KLAF** which combines **DATUM:KL**, **DATUM:GREEN** and **DATUM+PLUS** into a 3-day architecture design festival in July, and more recently **Swinburne University's Good Design Week** in Kuching.

Having attended all 3 of them, I will attempt to curate the experience – starting with **SHIFT 2019**, which took place at Taylor's University from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 with 9 speakers from China (**Wei Na**, **Dong Gong**, **Liu Jia Kun**), Korea (**Chan Joong Kim**), Thailand (**David Schafer**), the UK (**Kevin Carmody**, **Christopher Lee**, **Prof. Hanif Kara**) and Sri Lanka (**Milinda Parathiraja**). The moderators were from the UK (**Haruo Morishima**), China (**Liu Xiao Du**) and Malaysia (**Huat Lim** and **Suzanne Zeidler**). I thought that Huat did an excellent job summing up questions (especially from the students) and directing the Q&A into a lively and informative conversation.

Of all the speakers, I thought that the trio from China represented a good cross section of architectural practices. **Wei Na** from **ELEVATION WORKSHOP**, whose work is very visual with a large following on social media, while **Dong Gong** of **VECTOR ARCHITECTS** cleverly talked about the behind-the-scenes processes and journeys in his Alila Hotel project – telling us enough to look for his projects on-line, and **Lui Jia Kun** from Szechuan who presented in Mandarin, describing his contributions to the community via his architecture – relief-housing, a memorial and the West Village in Chengdu.

The 2-day conference fee cost RM 230, lunch was not provided although there was coffee and tea. It was organized as a CSR project\* with Taylors University providing the venue free of charge. The event had an air of youthful exuberance and inclusiveness, no doubt aided by the dozens of volunteers from the university and local practices, and the 550-pax agora style auditorium. I was told that the event was over-subscribed, and there are plans to hold it at KLCC next year in March. I am looking forward to next year's event.

**KLAF** has grown from a 2-day event to a 3-day event this year. It combines **DATUM:GREEN** and **DATUM+PLUS** with **DATUM:KL**. On Day 1 during the registration, I overheard a fellow Sarawakian asking if he could buy tickets for only one day's lectures. It ended up that he couldn't - it was a 3-day package for RM 750 (lunch and tea breaks provided). There were numerous lectures interspersed with a speech by YB Yeo Bee Yin; the Minister for Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, the conferring of the PAM GOLD Award and the Architecture Asia Award for Emerging Architects. I enjoyed many of the presentations by this year's speakers, however that was my problem – there were too many of them over three days. I can remember the project but cannot recall which architect designed it.

Not many of the speakers spoke to the conference's theme. The theme "TOMORROW" was a little too vague to direct the conversation, so we ended up with a nice buffet of good presentations. A close friend of mine who also attended the lectures thought that the reason was because there was no Star Architect. Others thought our home-grown Teo Ah Khing was the true keynote, having shown how he has broken the glass ceiling for Malaysian architects to practice "TOMORROW." I am looking forward to attending the **KLAF** fringe next year.

The **Good Design Week** was a collaborative effort by Curtin University, Australia and Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak, with co-chairs from both universities; Ar. Prof. Khoa Do and Ir. Prof. Lau Hieng Ho respectively. The conference aimed to bring applied design research, practice, governance and scholarship to examine good design for the community, housing, culture, heritage, resources, eco-tourism and creative economy. This was a good opportunity for Swinburne University to host foreign delegates and students (from Curtin University's Perth campus) – the conference was well attended by local practitioners and academics. I am looking forward to more participations from local universities.

To conclude, attending design conference is like a quick fix - a shot of caffeine to boost creative enzymes. However, for more sustainable results the lessons taken away have to be recorded and put to good use.

Written by  
**Ar Wee Hii Min**

*\*DOMA Initiatives was formed in 2017 as a CSR programme under the purview of DOMA College. It has since been turned into and registered as a non-profit charitable foundation with the intention to develop and promote young designers and architects. It is an open platform detached from any professional architectural body, allowing us to move freely and openly on all matters of design and architecture.*





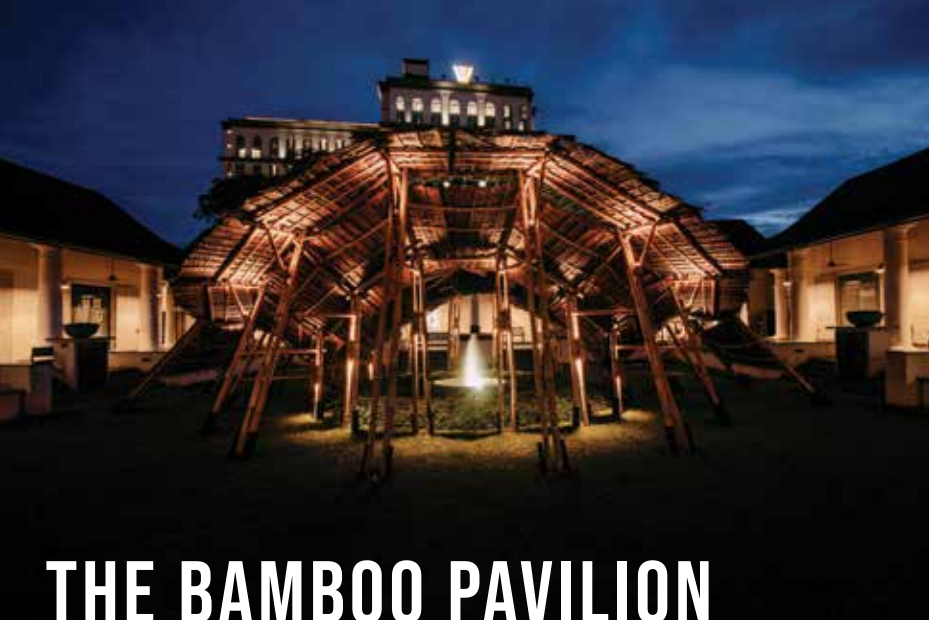
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# THE BAMBOO PAVILION

At Borneo Laboratory, we are interested in exploring how an architecture-making process can be an instrument for social discourses. One of the beautiful things working with the Rainforest Fringe Festival is that we become a part of the conversation of evolving materials, techniques, local craftsmanship and its societal value holistically.

From our previous project with the Rainforest Fringe Festival in 2018 - 'Redesigning Bornean Crafts' and 'The Instrument- a Bamboo Musical Instrument' - we focused on the following social discourses - bringing awareness to the disappearance of the craft industries, re-assessing the societal role of craftsmen and bringing innovation and new input into local craft practices. We documented the process of these projects and included them in our publication "Borneo Laboratory."

For the Rainforest Fringe Festival in 2019 (RFF2019), we designed a Bamboo Pavilion titled 'Origin.' It is a cross-disciplinary collaboration between Borneo Laboratory, choreographers of Primates - one of the main highlights of the RFF2019, local craftsmen and a network of suppliers in Kuching. The site is the courtyard of The Old Courthouse in Kuching, and it provides a profound meaning to the creation of the pavilion design, both geographically and metaphorically. As the zero point of the radial city development of Kuching, the Pavilion is an undulating landscape that extends from the ripples of the water fountain located in the centre of the courtyard, with its' cylindrical array of bamboo frames supporting the roof canopy made out of palm leaves at various heights.

*We were interested to see how we could develop a participatory building model by engaging the local community, architectural practices, interested groups and educational institutions. A collaborative process, we hoped to reveal more about bamboo construction knowledge and showcase the true capacity of our local makers to a wider network and community.*

From the 15<sup>th</sup> of May until the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019, we organised daily building workshops with our participants to show them how the pavilion could be made. We prepared booklets for each of the participants so that they could follow the explanations of the building process, and provided all of the materials and tools required. The hours were flexible; we worked between the hours of 9am - 12:30pm and 5pm to 10pm daily.

'Origin' is the outcome of a collaborative effort from at least 60 people around Borneo, and everyone came in at different phases during the building process. To mark its completion as well as to launch RFF2019, we held a ceremony to light the Bamboo Pavilion. Many of the participants had never met before prior to building the pavilion, so it was a beautiful and meaningful way to celebrate the conclusion of this special collaboration with the local community, craftsmen, students and designers. It is our aim to redesign the Bornean experience, by looking at our Origin to hopefully craft our future.

Text by: **Wendy Teo, UK ARB/RIBA**  
Photos by: **Bong Chon Fan**

## PROJECT DETAILS:

**Bamboo Pavilion Designer & Project Coordinator:** Wendy Teo, UK ARB/RIBA

**Bamboo Supplier:** SEAD Bamboo

**Atap Supplier:** Tasik Kunik Village

**Educational Partners:** Rover team of the 5th Kuching Scouts Group and UCTS Architecture Department

**Facilitator:** Borneo Carpentry



## About Borneo Laboratory

Borneo Laboratory is a multi-disciplinary platform for the experimentation of Borneo Aesthetics - an aesthetic that emphasises collaboration and open dialogues. Our movement is inspired by the idea of 'Berjalai'- conversing with the world, which is also a deep-rooted cultural ideal in the Bornean landscape. Since we began two years ago, we have held a number of regional collaborative workshop projects involving collaborators from France, Germany, UK, Italy, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. Thus far, our production ranges from publication, documentation, crafts, curation and architectural design. In our collaborations, we consciously engage people from diverse disciplines. Regardless of whether it is a publication or building, it is crucial for us to see that our projects deliver empathetic experiences whilst embracing universal values.



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# GAWAI & RAYA MEMBERS NIGHT

In celebration of both the Spirit of Ramadan (a time of sharing, forgiveness and thanksgiving) and the Joy & Happiness of Hari Gawai Dayak, PAMSC hosted for the first time a Gawai-Raya Gathering cum Members Nite during a cozy evening on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 at the Grand Margherita Hotel pool side.

Corporate and Graduate members as well as industry partners were invited to the event to join the celebrations and merriment. This is part of the Institute's objective to foster better relationships between members and industry partners. We were honoured with visits from invited guests including the Minister of Local Government & Housing YB Datuk Dr. Sim Kui Hian and officers from his ministry, representatives from Local Councils, Land & Survey department and Jabatan Bomba dan Pevelamat.

We would also like to thank PAM Council Members Ar. Nur Akmal, Ar. Ridha Razak and Ar. Adrianta Aziz for joining us.

Prepared by Organising Chair  
**Ar. Leong Pik Shia**



Say 'cheese' and wifie.



Our members mingling around with industry partners.



Mitchell, Angel, Adrianta and Royzaid posing for the camera.



"Hi CW, how's the food?"



Sharing the joy.



Our chair lady Ar. Ivy Jong giving her welcoming speech.



Lucky draw winners receiving their prizes.



Leong Pik Shia, Ivy with Nur Akmal and Ridha Razak who are both PAM council members.



"Let's finish the Tuak."



Sia Peh Swee, Abu Bakar Sepawi and Peter Wong catching up.



Ricky Hong, Uncle Philip and KC Law.



"Where is my mommy?"

## SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

## EVENTS & CPD

**Topic : Seminar on Architect's Practice (SOAP) 2019**  
**Session 1: Rights of Architects in Copyright**  
**Session 2: Dealing with the Decease of an Architect**

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 5:00pm  
**Venue:** PAMSC Centre  
**Speakers:** Ar. Ridha bin Abdul Razak , Ar. Adrianta bin Aziz

The Seminar on Architect's Practice (SOAP) 2019 was an interesting sharing session by Ar. Ridha Razak and Ar. Adrianta Aziz based on their research on copyright issues in architecture as well as the demise of an architect. Over 40 PAMSC members attended the seminar.

*Reported by*  
**Ar. Leong Pik Shia**



President Lillian Tay was in town and an impromptu catch-up session with members was arranged on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the B Menu restaurant.



President Lillian with some of our ladies from the PAMSC main committee.



President Lillian with some of the PAMSC Past Chairmen.

## INTER PROFESSIONAL GAMES 2019

Please join us to represent PAMSC ! Those interested, please contact the respective captains for the following events :

1) Darts(14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept)	<b>Ricky</b>	<b>+60 16-860 1601</b>
2) Badminton(21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept)	<b>Jascinta</b>	<b>+60 13-336 7902</b>
3) Bowling(28 <sup>th</sup> Sept*)	<b>Jasper Ling</b>	<b>+60 19-886 0206</b>
4) Futsal(29 <sup>th</sup> Sept)	<b>Liang Chang Wee</b>	<b>+60 12-889 3200</b>
5) Golf (5 <sup>th</sup> Oct*)	<b>Henry Chuo</b>	<b>+60 19-829 2123</b>
6) Basketball (6 <sup>th</sup> Oct)	<b>Sam Lau</b>	<b>+60 12-886 2412</b>

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## SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

# GRADUATES, EDUCATION & BIM (GEB)

### Mock Up Oral Examination

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Venue:** PAMSC Centre

**Time:** 8:00am - 1:00pm

8 Graduates & exam candidates attended a mock-up of the Oral Examination for Part 3. Each participant was given half an hour and they were interviewed by two panelists.

#### PANELIST:

Panel 1: (4 Candidates)

1. Ar. Chiew Chung Yee
2. Ar. Noraini Narodden

Panel 2: (4 Candidates)

1. Ar. Kushahrin Sadikin Kushairy
2. Ar. Peggy Wong Bik Kay

Questions were asked based on their log books and professional experience reports. This practice session was treated as close to the real exam as possible in terms of setting and candidates were asked to dress as if they were going to the real oral exam. This allowed the candidates to experience the exam as closely as possible and to help control their nervousness.

The candidates were marked based on their appearances, level of knowledge as well as their confidence levels. The panelists gave their feedbacks to the candidates on areas and topics where they can improve on.

At noon, Ar. Chan Kheng Leong came in to share his experiences, expectations, dos and don'ts as a recent Part III Oral Examiner.

The Part 3 Oral Examination was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at the Hilton Hotel. A total of 10 candidates passed the Part 3 Oral Examination; congratulations to those who passed!

*Reported by*  
**Ar. Hajah Noraini Narodden**



### Career Talk to A-Level Lodge School Students

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Venue:** Lodge International School

**Time:** 11:30 am

As part of Lodge School's A-Level program, professionals in various fields and industries were invited to give a Career Talk to the A-Level students for further exposure about the different career paths.

Ar Tina Lau represented PAMSC and shared her experience taking up Architecture as a career with the A-Level students. It was a 20-minute sharing session and the following was presented:

- the academic / professional pathway required
- key aspects of the job / description of a typical day at work
- traits needed to do well in the job / whom the career is suitable for
- career progression / opportunities

It was an interactive session with students asking questions at the end of the session.

*Reported by*  
**Ar. Tina Lau Kor Ting**

## CONGRATULATIONS

to the following new Architects who passed their Part III LAM Examinations held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019:

**FLORENCE YEO YIN LING**  
**KIUNG TAT YEUNG**  
**MICHAEL CHEU TECK LIAN**  
**SHARINA LAW SZE LIN**  
**SAMUEL LEE CHEE ZIN**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**PAMSC CSR 01 @  
S.K ST ANDREW SG. APONG. KUCHING**

**10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019, 9AM - 4PM**

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## SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

# PRACTICE & GOVERNMENT LIAISON

### Sub-Committee Discussion (2/2019)

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Venue: PAMSC

Immediately after Ar. Ivy Jong took over the Chairmanship of PAMSC, the first PGL Sub-Committee discussion was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The agenda for this discussion was to update the sub-committee and follow-up on-going issues as well as the delegation of tasks for sub-committee members.

### Discussion on Fire Safety Guidelines for Long Houses

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Venue: Bomba Sarawak

PAMSC represented by Ar. Angel Wong & Ar. Noraini Narodden attended a discussion for a special committee to look into fire safety guidelines for Long Houses. PAMSC was tasked to work out some design guidelines & prototype designs for Long Houses that met the following requirements:

- Fire breaks between each door
- Electrical wiring design & control
- Provision for fire extinguishers & hydrants
- Compliance with Class O materials
- Bomba access road
- Retain the main character & culture of Long Houses
- Possibility to incorporate Green Design principles



Discussion on Fire Safety Guidelines for Long Houses was chaired by YS TPJB Edwin Galan Teruki, Pengarah Bahagian Keselamatan Kebakaran JBPM, attended by Director & officers from Bomba Sarawak, Majlis Adat Istiadat Sarawak, Fakulti Alam Bina Unimas, Ministry of Local Government & Housing, Malaysian Fire Protection Association (MFPA), Petronas MLNG & PAMSC.

The PGL Sub-committee called a discussion on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to deliberate on this matter and came out with some basic fire safety design guidelines for Long Houses. PAMSC will revert to Bomba Sarawak officially.



PGL Sub-Committee discussion on Fire Safety Guidelines for Long Houses on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### Briefing on Review of Land Code (Development and Subdivision of Land)(Qualified Person) Rules 1998

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Venue: MUDeNR, Level 1, Wisma MASJA

The proposed amendments to the Land Code for Qualified Person was presented by The Head of Planning of MUDeNR, En. Wan Sufian. A dialogue with PAMSC members was immediately called on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to brief members and collect feedback and comments to the Ministry within a week.



Briefing on Review of Land Code was chaired by HOP, attended by JKR Sarawak, L&S HQ, State Attorney General, MBKS & PAMSC represented by Ar. Andy Ngu, Ar. Angel Wong, Ar. Stephen Liew & Ar. Chai Si Yong.



Dialogue session with members on feedbacks & comments on Review of Land Code matters.

Some of the key amendments proposed by MUDeNR are as follows:

#### 1. Preparation of drawings: (PAMSC Strongly objected)

- **10 Acres & above**  
Drawings & Form Q by Town Planner only  
Subdivision Plan (Form R) by Town Planner & Land Surveyor only
- **Below 10 Acres**  
Drawings & Form Q by Town Planner & others  
Planning brief by Town Planner only  
Subdivision Plan (Form R) by Town Planner & Land Surveyor only

#### 2. Cancellation & suspension: (PAMSC Strongly objected)

- Proposed demerit system for errors done by QP.

#### 3. Government Servant as QP: (PAMSC Strongly objected)

- Allow government servants from JKR, SPA and L&S to register as QP to check drawings.

#### 4. Increase of fees for registration, renewal & re-registration

#### 5. Period of QP renewal:

- Renewal by 30<sup>th</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December, upload renewed certificates by LAM before 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- Automatic suspension on 1<sup>st</sup> April if do not comply.

#### 6. Conditions of QP registration:

- At least 3-years practical experience in Sarawak

#### 7. Registration of Non-Sarawakian:

- Proposed condition of "ordinary residency."
- Non-Malaysian to submit a supporting letter from professional institute for verification.

PAMSC reverted to MUDeNR officially on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### Joint Technical Consultative Committee (JTCC) Meeting No. 1/2019

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Venue: Imperial Hotel, Kuching

The 1st JTCC Meeting for 2019 was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Imperial Hotel, Kuching. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary of MLGH, En. Bakrie Zaini, (Alternate Chairman of JTCC) assisted by Ar. Philip Chang (Deputy Chairman of JTCC) and Tuan Haji Abu Bakar Sepawi (MLGH Special Administrative Office).

Minutes of the Meeting for JTCC Meeting No. 1/2018 held on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 was agreed and endorsed officially. [Please refer to point of discussion for the minutes in PAMSC Practice Notes ref: PAMSC/SUB/PRACTICENOTES/2019(1) while waiting for official minutes/circulars from MLGH]

Some important matters that were raised in the meeting are as follows:

- E-Submission system for Building Plan was briefed by SAINS. SAINS to set up a working unit with stakeholders to minimise the risks during the roll-up period (target Sept-Oct 2019) and to work with the MLGH on the training aspects.
- Standardisation of submission procedures (checklist requirement) will be carried out after the Workshop on Review of SBO 1994.
- Circular issued: (MLGH to extend to PAMSC & ACEM)  
(a) Building Plan Submission involving internal renovations of buildings. (cont'd)

- (b) Standardisation on matters that need not to be referred back to L&S for comments during BP re-submission for non-strata developments.
- (c) Standard entrance culvert ramp drawings and details.
- (d) Circular of Matrix Guide for building requirements for persons with disabilities.

- Accredited Checkers as an option for building owners for the Building Plan approval process under the proposed amendments to SBO 1994 and enabling provisions to control and regulate the Accredited Checkers.
- Proposed standards for Food Establishment and Commercial Alterations for JTCC members' comments.



PAMSC represented by Ar. Philip Chang (JTCC Deputy Chairman), Ar. Ivy Jong, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. John Lee, Ar. Chai Si Yong and Ar. Tina Lau in JTCC Meeting No.1/2019.

## Meeting / Workshop for Sarawak Building Ordinance Amendments Review

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May/24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Venue:** MLGH/Imperial Hotel, Kuching

Back in 2017, a draft amendment of the SBO 1994 (Building By-laws) was submitted to MLGH by Bomba Sarawak & PAMSC and it was distributed to all of the stakeholders for comments. Since then, various policies (eg. e-submission of building plans) were initiated over the years by the state government to improve the submission & approval process of building plans. The SBO needs to be re-looked at again especially on the Ordinance part. MLGH led by Special Administrative Officer, Tuan Haji Abu Bakar Sepawi, has been working closely with ACEM, PAMSC and major councils to review the amendments to SBO 1994 (Ordinance & Building By-laws).

A 3-Days discussions were held from 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the Ministry's meeting room to discuss the review of the amendments. This meeting was attended by MLGH, PAMSC, ACEM & major councils to go through the proposed amendments. Details were deliberated in preparation for a working paper to be presented in a workshop with other relevant agencies.



Ar. Philip Chang, Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. Kevin Wong & Ar. Chai Si Yong attended the 3-Day Meeting on SBO 1994 Amendment Reviews.

During the 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the proposed amendments of the SBO 1994 (Ordinance & Building By-laws) was presented during a workshop held at the Imperial Hotel, Kuching. Other than the members of the SBO review committee, the workshop was also attended by L&S, MUDeNR, Bomba, SAG, Local Councils, BDA, ILAM & other relevant agencies. The 3-Day deliberations were very fruitful. The Ministry is targeting to get the draft of amendments ready by 2020.



The Workshop was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of MLGH, En. Bakrie Zaini.



PAMSC was represented by Ar. Ivy Jong, Ar. Philip Chang, Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Peter Wong, Ar. John Lee, Ar. Kevin Wong, Ar. Chai Si Yong, Ar. Tina Lau & Ar. Amanda Lau.

## Follow-up Lab on Urban Renewal/Rejuvenation Initiatives for Kuching & Miri City (Urban Space)

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

**Venue:** Imperial Hotel, Kuching

Almost 3 months after the 1<sup>st</sup> Lab on the Urban Renewal/Rejuvenation Initiatives, a follow-up to the lab was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 at the Imperial Hotel, Kuching. The objective of the follow-up was to continue the deliberation of the proposed urban renewal projects suggested by each group after the site visits. The groups were Group MBKS, Group DBKU, Group MPP and Group MCC. These projects will be proposed under the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan budget.



PAMSC was represented in each group by: Ar. Chiew Chung Yee (MCC), Ar. Law Kim Chui (MPP), Ar. Andy Ngu (MBKS) & Ar. Ng Chee Wee (DBKU)

## International Conference Digital Economy Sarawak (IDECS) 2019

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Venue:** Borneo Convention Centre, Kuching

PAMSC, as one of the committee members of the Sarawak Green Building Initiatives, was invited by the Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) to participate in IDECS 2019. PAMSC jointly participated with the Malaysian Green Building Confederation (MGBC) to set up an exhibition booth to promote PAMSC events, GBI & MGBC during the 2-Days expo. The event was officially launched by the Chief Minister of Sarawak.



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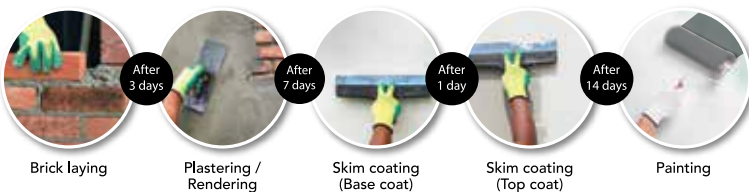
Congratulations to **Design Network Architects** and **Arkitek KDI** who snapped up major architecture and building awards this year! A great achievement from our Sarawak-based architectural practices -

**Design Network Architects Sdn Bhd** for winning 2 awards at the **PAM Awards 2019** - Silver Award in the Single Residential Category for Borneo House and Commendation Award in the Multiple Residential (Low Rise) Category for Precinct Luxe @ La Promenade.

**Arkitek KDI Sdn Bhd** for winning the **BCI Asia (Building Construction Industry Asia) Top 10 Architects in Malaysia Award 2019**. The only Sarawak-based architectural firm included in the Top 10, Arkitek KDI have won the award five times.



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# ARCHI-TRAVELS: EXPERIENCING ARCHITECTURE



The idea that we should visit buildings we admire might seem like a no-brainer. What educator would ever recommend that a few selected views of a famous architectural building could substitute for the actual experience of one? It's like a chef who advocates that looking at pictures of good food could substitute for the actual tasting of it.

And yet for the vast majority of us, the number of buildings we ever get to experience in person pales with the sheer quantity of buildings that we have "experienced" in images. We are constrained financially and physically from personally visiting all the important and inspirational buildings we know in our minds.

I was in my twenties when I finally visited in person a building which had legendary status. Up to then, all the Architecture (with a big 'A') I had ever known was through books and images, a paper city of my own imagination. These famous buildings, or rather the cellulose dot-matrix versions of them, existed unmoored in time and space, complete and unreal. We knew these buildings intimately, every aesthetically-pleasing view, every lovingly photographed angle, even shots that we would never see in real life, courtesy of some ambitious architectural photographer. We knew everything about these buildings without ever having visited them. Or so we thought.

Two buildings which I visited as a student threw these beliefs into the shade. I was lucky – I have parents who believe in travel as a means of education, and these same parents had the means to bring us with them.

The first was the Pantheon in Rome. Like all architecture students, I had been well-schooled in the facts in Architectural History 101. Its virtuoso and early use of concrete. The symbolic use of perfect hemispheres. The subtle positioning of the ceiling coffers. But nothing I had ever read or glimpsed in pictures on the subject prepared me for the real thing.

The shaded entrance portico, a standard temple front, modulates the passage from a busy piazza to a sacred space. The first glimpse of the dome appears as a sliver through those immensely heavy bronze doors, a ticket-shaped glimpse of the cosmos. And then the emergence into a luminous interior infused with a golden light. The noise of the piazza outside recedes away, though the Roman sky is here too, a blue halo harnessed in that famous oculus.

*But most transfixing of all, that golden circle of light as it sweeps overhead in a great arc, a pendulum of light slowly swinging across the calibrated coffers, a record of hours, days, centuries, millennia. I stood for an hour, watching time pass. Of all the solid materials in this vast space – bronze, marble, concrete – it is the slow, inexorable passage of Time that weighs heaviest in my memory. And it's the one thing that no number of photographs can hope to capture.*

Sitting on the other end of the time scale, the second great work of architecture I experienced was the Villa Savoye, that seminal Corbusian masterpiece, on the outskirts of Paris. Here, I thought initially, was a building that should feel exactly as it does in photographs. Inured to the image of a work that more closely resembled a pristine, white-card model than an actual building, what further insights could an actual visit bring?

The first thing that strikes you about Villa Savoye is just how small it is. Well, it's not small small. It was designed as a rich man's plaything after all. The modern luxury houses that claim descent from it seem pumped on steroids by comparison with their lofty rooms, their oversized spaces, their capacious kitchens. This was nothing like Richard Meier. Here instead was a building that was relatively diminutive in scale, austere even. The ceilings, as in most early modern buildings, were low, the stairs narrow, the fittings perilously close to one's eyes and head. Most luxury houses nowadays seem to snarl, don't touch me. This one seems to whisper, touch all you like.

For all of Corbusier's influence on architectural mass-production, Villa Savoye feels anything but mass-produced. Clearly the overriding aesthetic is that of a modern, industrial world; of ocean liners and airplanes and factories. But here, every fitting is hand-made; every faucet, light fitting, hinge and clothes-hanger bears the nobbly, textured mark of human hands, quite unlike the super-sleek image of modernism we've been shown in books. The iPhone owes its design ancestry to the Villa Savoye, but while the former contrives to erase any signs of humanity from its frictionless form, the Villa Savoye lays bare its human origins. The slightly wonky door handles feel like they were forged by a real-life blacksmith, and indeed they probably were.

*The thing about these two buildings, or in fact any well-known work of art nowadays, is that their physical reality have been supplanted by countless, reproducible images of them. I use the term "well-known" pointedly. We recognise them from images on the web and from books, we believe we know them. All without ever having seen them in real life. We accept that a 3-dimensional experience (4 if you count time) can be flattened into a 2-dimensional photograph, and that this might be sufficient for understanding, much in the same way that we hope clients will understand our 3D rendering perspectives to represent the real thing. Most of the architecture we know, or will ever know, is a pixelated 2D image of it.*

So if you get the chance, go, see it, touch it, experience it.

Written by  
**Ar. Alan Kor Loong Lau**



*Alan Lau is not afraid to travel. He is however terrified of airports, planes, train toilets, rogue taxi drivers, and pack animals.*



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# POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE



I've always enjoyed drawing but being an Architect was never part of my career plan when I was growing up. The seed of Architecture was first implanted in me when I was watching the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics on TV. When I saw the silhouette of La Sagrada Familia jutting out from the city's relatively flat skyline, it took my breath away. I was amazed at how buildings could have such profound impact on humans; both physically and spiritually.

After high school, I went to Perth, Australia to further my studies. I am eternally grateful that Mum did not insist I study either Accounting or Engineering like many of my peers. I remember my first university lecture clearly – I did not take down a single note as I was overwhelmed by all of the big words my lecturer used. I learnt how to think critically, find my own answers and defend my views – a far cry from the education I received back home in Malaysia.

After graduation, I landed a job in Singapore as a Landscape Architect. It was a steep learning curve – I had to learn how to design spaces through plant selections and natural terrains. I did learn that most good Architects have a good grasp of Landscape Design. After all, most buildings are built within a natural, or at least, landscaped environment.

My long term plan had always been to return to Australia and I chose Melbourne. The start of my architectural career coincided with the city's Apartment Boom. However, despite the thriving market, Architects faced great challenges navigating the complicated planning regulations that were often at odds with the growing demand of high-density living. As Planning Approvals are managed by local councils elected by the residents, decisions are frequently made based on the community's response rather than the planning guidelines. These uncertainties added unnecessary risks to the developers, who passed on the risk to consumers through inflated margins and prices. It is sad to say that the issue persists today despite the current soft property market.

*After many years of working on multi-residential projects, I have come to learn that Good Architecture transcends Style. In architecture school, we were taught about the virtues of Modernism and how we have seen the best days of the Classics. I once worked in a firm that specialised in high-end luxury apartments built in the Neo-Classical style. I realised that regardless of style, Good Architecture can be achieved if a building is designed with its' inhabitants in mind and all of the details have been painstakingly considered across all levels.*

In Australia, where the traditional role of the Architect is diminishing, private residences are one of the few areas where the Architect's involvement from its conception to fruition is still common. I enjoy interacting with my private residential clients because it is a very personal partnership and it touches on issues which initially led me into Architecture – the crafting of a built environment that is not only functional but also evokes an emotional response from the end-users.

Throughout my career, I jumped at every opportunity to work on something different to avoid being 'pigeon-holed.' When the Apartment Boom started to slow down, I worked on commercial projects – from car showrooms to restaurants. Commercial works, especially Retail and Hospitality, are great opportunities to test bold ideas as generating visual impacts and talking points are very much part of the brief. I find it a great reprieve to be able to explore multiple design ideas and not get too bogged down by planning regulatory concerns. Many commercial clients, especially hospitality operators, appreciate how a well-designed space benefits the business and can have in-depth discussions on design elements such as colours, textures or lighting with ease. At many instances, I find myself learning more from them because part of their job is to be excellent observers of human behaviour and work out what they can do to optimise their customers' experience.

Thank you all for allowing me to share my architectural journey to date. I've now lived in Australia longer than any other places but Sarawak will always have a special place in my heart, especially the food. I can't wait for my next visit home and to discover delightful Architectural Gems that all of you have created for this land we all love.



## CAPTIONS:

1. O'Connor House . Photographer: Ben Hosking
2. Tonka. Photographer: Shannon McGrath
3. Brighton Mazda. Photographer: Ben Hosking

**Law Eng Ann** was born in Sibu, grew up in Kuching and now resides in Melbourne, Australia. He obtained his Architectural Degree from the University of Western Australia. He worked as a Landscape Architect for 2 years with Scenic Landscape in Singapore before returning to Melbourne. He is a registered architect in Victoria and worked at Techne Architecture & Interior Design for 9 years, working on a wide range of residential and commercial projects. He is currently a Senior Project Architect at Ewert Leaf Architects.

